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A

Subject Matter

Dr. E. V. McCollum's Discovery of Vitamin A

Type of Presentation

Historical Drama

Approximate Length

Thirteen Minutes

Source

"LISTEN AMERICA"

(Women's National Emergency Committee and NBC)

THE
JOURNAL
OF
THE
ROYAL
ANTHROPOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE
OF GREAT
BRITAIN
AND IRELAND
VOLUME
LXXV
PART I
1905

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ORIGINAL ARTICLES

THE
ANTHROPOLOGY
OF
THE
MOUNTAINS
OF
INDIA

BY
J. H. H. KELLOGG

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ANNOUNCER: Millions have half-health instead of the glowing health plus that modern scientific nutrition could give them. Listen to some of the reports in our ears in Washington.

(TICKER.....MUSIC)

MR. JONES: Field studies of the diets of American workers and farmers show three out of four nutritionally below par.

(MUSIC.....AND TICKER BULGE...)

MRS. SMITH: All reports prove on section of the country and no economic class free from evil effects of malnutrition.

(MUSIC.....AND TICKER BULGE...)

MR. BROWN: Latest evidence substantiates nutrition is outstanding civilian problem in national defense.

(QUICK MUSIC CURTAIN...)

ANNOUNCER: This problem of enough of the right kind of food for everybody is your problem--the problem of you, the people. It is a challenge to our democratic sense--yes, and to the moral fibre of our democracy. We must win for ourselves, and help our neighbors win, all the vigor and courage--the health plus--that vital food can give..So tonight, I ask every one of you, every man, woman and child listening to me now, to enlist as a front-line soldier in an all-out crusade for buoyant, robust health, for national health plus and the strength for national defense.

(PAUSE) Yes, God meant us to be strong and healthy; for the good earth, which He gave us, brings forth all we need for health and strength...The earth is the mother of all living things. Up from the soil, through growing plants, flows the green blood of

(MORE)

life to make animals and men grow and flourish...And in this process there is a sort of Master of Ceremonies, that we call the Vitamins. So you see the science of the vitamins is a very down-to-earth science, a science which was born on the farm. One of the greatest pioneers in this science was a Kansas farm boy, E. V. McCollum, the man who played the major part in cornering the first vitamin, and the man who forged a new weapon for all the hunger fighters who followed him.

(MUSIC AND UNDER...)

Dr. E. V. McCollum's story begins in June 1908 in the corn barn..

(MUSIC FADING OUT...)

(COW MOOS OFF, SNEAKING IN)

of the University of Wisconsin Experiment Station. Here a very puzzling experiment has just shown that for some mysterious reason cows grown when they are fed corn, waste away and die on oats and wheat...and young McCollum is talking about the problem with his chief, Dr. Stephen Babcock--

MCCOLLUM: Chief, I'd like to go on with this wheat-sick corn-well experiment

BABCOCK: Who's stopping you, my boy?--

MCCOLLUM: But there's at least one thousand different chemical compounds in every ear of corn--I'd have to try each one out for a couple of years, to see if there's an X in it that really makes cows grown.

BABCOCK: Well, you're young, go ahead for twenty-five years and see what happens.

MCCOLLUM: No, I've got a better way--Look--corn's a blind alley, but we know all animals need proteins, carbohydrates, fats. All right--

(MORE)

let's feed cows absolutely pure proteins and carbohydrates--
they're easy to get--then add one kind of fat after another until
we find our X .

BABCOCK: That's a good text book idea, Mac, but you're in a barn--Look
at the size of Elsie there, watching us (MOO OFF STAGE)--It would
cost a fortune to feed her pure proteins.

McCOLLUM: Golly, you'r right...and horses are too big--so're dogs, even
guinea pigs (MOO CLOSER) (SLAP) Get over there, Elsie.

(MOO...CLUMPS OF HOOVES)

Monkeys. No, too big and too expensive. (SIGH) None of 'em
small enough.

BABCOCK: That doesn't sound like a Kansas farmer's spirit!

McCOLLUM: Maybe not, but I'm licked...I

(MOO ON MIKE)

get back over there, Elsie, and quit leaning on me you lazy
critter. (MOO) No, chief, I--hey, wait a minute!

(MUSIC SNEAKS IN FAST...)

Wait just a minute!

(SHIMMER MUSIC IN AND DOWN INTO SOUND MILKING)

(CHICKENS OFF)

YOUNG ED: Hold still, bossy--

(MOOS)

MA: (OFF) Sonny-Sonny McCollum!

YOUNG ED: Yes, Maw, I'm here. (MOO) Get over there, Bossy. Quit leaning
on me, how can I milk you--

(MORE)

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MA: (ENTERING) Son, these ornery varmints are driving me crazy, gnawing at everything. Suppose you set that curious mind of yours to something constructive for once and get me rid of them. I'll--I'll pay you a nickel for every one you catch. (BOARD FADE) Yes sir, a full nickel for every one--

(BOARD FADE IN SOUND...HORSE...COWS...CHICKENS

NOISES)

BERT: (WHISPERING) (FADING IN WITH SOUND) Gee, Mac, that's a right smart trap if the varmints get into it.

YOUNG ED: (WHISPERING) Shut up...they'll come. I been watching 'em for a month. They like balls of wet flour--

BERT: There goes one, two...and more--

YOUNG ED: Four, five, six--I'll be rich enough to get a air rifle. Eight, nine--

(DROP LID) (SQUEAKS..SCAMPERING)

Maw--Maw! You owe me forty-five cents!

(SHIMMER MUSIC UP AND OUT)

McCOLLUM: (FADING IN) Chief--I've got it--How about....rats.

BABCOCK: Rats! Why who ever heard of using rats that way...

McCOLLUM: Nobody--but they're small--cheap--and I know their ways--

BABCOCK: (LAUGHING BIG BOOMING LAUGH) Who says there's nothing new in this world--Come on Mac, lets talk to the Dean.

(MUSIC: BRIDGE)

DEAN: Mr. McCollum, our funds come from the State. Can you imagine what our legislators would say if they found out we were buying rats?

BABCOCK: How about just calling 'em laboratory equipment?

(MORE)

DEAN: (SMILING BUT FIRM) No, Dr. Babcock, it's quite out of the question (EXITING) Good-day, Gentlemen.

(DOOR CLOSES)

BABCOCK: Well, that's that, Mac.

McCOLLUM: I've got to use rats. They're the only answer.

BABCOCK: But there's the little matter of losing your job--

McCOLLUM: (THINKING IT OUT) The Dean never comes down to my lab.. And a man's pets are his own business. Chief, (A LA MELODRAMA) I feel a greaaaaat yearrrrrring for the pets of my cheee-ildhood--

BABCOCK: Say, what is this?

McCOLLUM: The kindest, sweetest pets of the earth--rats.

(ORCHESTRA: MUSIC AND UNDER)

McCOLLUM: That's it--same kind of trap, same old moist flour-bait--

(SQUEAK)

Come on, you beauties, come on!

(ORCHESTRA: MUSIC UP AND DOWN...)

(SQUEAKS) Here you are, my fine long-tailed friend--See if you like this little taste of lard. Ouch! Bitten again! Doggonit, I just can't work with you guys--

(ORCHESTRA: MUSIC UP...)

Chicago--Pet Shops, Inc.--Gentlemen--You advertise small, mild and even tempered white rats. Please send me five dollars worth, special delivery.

(ORCHESTRA: MUSIC UP...)

(ALMOST COOING)

McCOLLUM: There, my pretties--Now just relax in your new homes, and maybe--just maybe, you'll wake up some day and find yourselves famous.

(MORE)

(ORCHESTRA: MUSIC UP AND OUT)

BABCOCK: (ENTERING) Well, Mac, your rats certainly have increased in five years.

McCOLLUM: Over a hundred of 'em.

BABCOCK: Why did you especially want me to come down today?

McCOLLUM: Well, I want to--

DEAN: (OFF...CALLING) Dr. Babcock--are you there?

McCOLLUM: The Dean!

BABCOCK: I'll try to head him off.

(DOOR OPENS)

DEAN: Oh, there you are, sir. I want to consult you about--Why--what--these cages are full of--well, Dr. McCollum!

McCOLLUM: Why, er, a--you see they're my pets--

DEAN: Pets! Walls lined with rats? Think of the speeches if the legislature found this out! Dr. McCollum, I am forced to say--

McCOLLUM: Wait a minute, Sir. I was going to show Dr. Babcock first and then come and tell you--See these rats with the yellow labels in front of their cages?

BABCOCK: My boy, we aren't color blind--

McCOLLUM: Notice any difference from all the others?

DEAN: Just that the yellow tagged ones are a bigger and huskier type...

McCOLLUM: But they aren't! They're all the same strain!

BABCOCK: What!

DEAN: (BEGINNING TO SEE) Dr. McCollum, do you mean--

McCOLLUM: And they're had identical amounts of food and exactly the same amount of fat.

DEAN: But then why are the yellow so much bigger--

(MORE)

McCOLLUM: I fed each group the same amount of fats--but not the same fats. The blue got lard, the reds, olive oil, and so on--but the yellow got butter--and they grew! Somewhere in butter is the very source of growth. And so I am calling this source Vitamin A--the beginning of a new road for science!

BABCOCK: And all from a few rats...

DEAN: (SMILING) My mean pets, Dr. Babcock--

McCOLLUM: (VERY QUIETLY, SEEING THE VITS AHEAD) And using such rats, science can uncover who knows how many unimagined blessings for mankind...!

(MUSIC CURTAIN...)

(APPLAUSE)

ANNOUNCER: Thank you for your inspiring portrayal of Dr. E. V. McCollum. Millions of our American boys who grow taller than their Dads owe some of their inches to him.

[illegible]

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